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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

-----X
MICHELLE SHEPLOCK

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

C.A. No.:

17 2988

-against-

MEDICAL DATA SYSTEMS, INC.

Defendant.
-----X

Plaintiff Michelle Sheplock ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, Garibian Law Offices, P.C., as and for her Complaint against Defendant Medical Data Systems, Inc. ("Defendant"), respectfully sets forth, complains, and alleges, upon information and belief, the following:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as well as 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* The Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the State law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
2. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), as this is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred.
3. Plaintiff brings this action for damages arising from the Defendant's violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, commonly known as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA").

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff is a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, County of Chester, residing at 4060 Horseshoe Pike, Apt. 10, Honey Brook, PA 19344.
5. Defendant is a "debt collector" as the phrase is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(6) and used in the FDCPA, with an address at 2001 9th Avenue, Suite 312, Vero Beach, FL 32960.
6. Defendant was acting as a debt collector with respect to the collection of the Plaintiff's alleged debt.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

7. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
8. On information and belief, on a date better known to Defendant, Defendant began collection activities on an alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff ("Alleged Debt").
9. The Alleged Debt was incurred as a financial obligation that was primarily for personal, family or household purposes and is therefore a "debt" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
10. Specifically the Alleged Debt was a medical debt with the original creditor of Brandywine Hospital, which is defined as a personal obligation and consumer debt under the FDCPA.
11. The reporting of a debt to a credit reporting agency by a debt collector is a communication covered by the FDCPA, as is the failure to communicate information.

12. Defendant violated the FDCPA is that it did not report that Plaintiff had disputed the Alleged Debt.
13. As explained in *Wilhelm v. Credico, Inc.*, 519 F.3d 416 (8th Cir.2008) - “The relevance of the portion of § 1692e(8) on which [plaintiff] relies—‘including the failure to communicate that a disputed debt is disputed’—is rooted in the basic fraud law principle that, if a debt collector *elects* to communicate “credit information” about a consumer, Defendant violated the FDCPA in that it omitted a piece of information that is always material, namely, that the consumer has disputed the Alleged Debt.
14. This interpretation is confirmed by the relevant part of the Federal Trade Commission's December 1988 Staff Commentary on the [FDCPA]:
 1. Disputed debt. If a debt collector knows that a debt is disputed by the consumer ... *and reports it to a credit bureau*, he must report it as disputed.
 2. Post-report dispute. *When a debt collector learns of a dispute after reporting the debt to a credit bureau, the dispute need not also be reported.*

Id. at 418 (emphasis in original) (citing FTC Staff Commentary, 53 Fed.Reg. 50097–02, 50106 (Dec. 13, 1988))
15. Many district courts have followed *Wilhelm*, holding that a debt collector who knows that a debt is disputed by the Consumer and reports it to a credit bureau must report it as disputed. *See, e.g., Jacques v. Solomon & Solomon P. C.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 118092, ** 11 (D.Del.2012) (holding that the duty to report a debt under [Section 1692e(8)]

arises if one elects to report credit information); *Edeh v. Aargon Collection Agency, LLC*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 79160, *10-11 (D.Minn.2011) (“[I]f a debt collector knows or should know that a given debt is disputed, the debt collector must disclose the debt's disputed status to persons inquiring about a consumer's credit history”); *Benson v. Med-Rev Recoveries, Inc. (In re Benson)*, 445 B.R. 445, 449–50 (Bankr.E.D.Pa.2010); *Kinel v. Sherman Acquisition II LP*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 97073, *57 (S.D.N.Y.2006) (“holding that a cause of action under Section 1692e(8) is stated where defendant is alleged to have communicated inaccurate information to a third party about a disputed debt”); *Black v. Asset Acceptance, LLC*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 43264, *13 (N.D.Ga.2005) (noting that if a debt collector reports a consumer debt to a credit bureau under Section 1692e(8), and the debt collector knows that the debt is disputed by the consumer, then the debt collector must also report that debt as disputed).

16. Here, Defendant reported the Alleged Debt on the Plaintiff's credit report, after Defendant knew about Plaintiff's dispute.
17. Plaintiff disputed the Alleged Debt directly with the Defendant with a dispute letter on September 15, 2016.
18. Plaintiff examined her credit report again on December 11, 2016 and found that Defendant had **re-reported** the credit account to the bureau(s) in October of 2016.
19. When Defendant **re-reported** the credit account after it received Plaintiff's dispute letter, Defendant failed to list the account as "disputed by consumer" despite being required to do so under U.S.C. § 1692e(8).
20. As a result of the failure to remove the trade line, or mark same as disputed, Plaintiff's credit score suffered and was lowered roughly 60 points, which has resulted Plaintiff's in

inability to obtain credit, less favorable interest rates and may have the result of hindering future employment opportunities.

21. As a result of Defendant's deceptive, misleading and unfair debt collection practices, Plaintiff has been damaged.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
(Violations of the FDCPA)

22. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully state herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
23. When Defendant re-reported the credit account after it received Plaintiff's dispute letter, Defendant failed to list the account as "disputed by consumer" despite being required to do so by the FDCPA.
24. As a result of the failure to remove the trade line, or mark same as disputed, Plaintiff's credit score suffered and was lowered roughly 60 points, which has resulted Plaintiff's inability to obtain credit, less favorable interest rates and may have the result of hindering future employment opportunities.
25. Defendant's failure to list the account as "disputed by consumer" despite being required to do so by the FDCPA, constituted a violation of various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e(2), 1692e(5), 1692e(8), 1692e(10) and 1692f.
26. As a result of the Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, Plaintiff has been damaged and is entitled to damages in accordance with the FDCPA.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

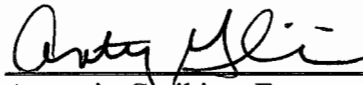
WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Michelle Sheplock demands judgment against Defendant Medical Data Systems, Inc. as follows:

- a) For actual damages provided and pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b) For statutory damages provided and pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c) For attorney fees and costs provided and pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);
- d) For declaratory relief stating that Defendant violated the FDCPA pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201; and
- e) For any such other and further relief, as well as further costs, expenses and disbursements of this action as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: June 27, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

GARIBIAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.



Antranig Garibian, Esq.

PA Bar No. 94538

1800 JFK Boulevard, Suite 300

Philadelphia, PA 19103

ag@garibianlaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff Michelle Sheplock

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet contains information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
Michelle SheplockDEFENDANTS
Medical Data Systems, Inc.

17

2988

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Chester
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
Antranig Garibian, Esq. Garibian Law Offices, P.C.
1800 JFK Blvd. Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-326-9179 ext 201, ag@garibianlaw.com

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
☐ 2 Removed from State Court
☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
15 USC Sect. 1692 et seq. Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

Brief description of cause:

Improper collection efforts regarding credit reporting

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

6/27/17

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD -

Antranig Garibian

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

JUL 03 2017

MAK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

17

2988

Address of Plaintiff: 4060 Horseshoe Pike, Apt. 10, Honey Brook, PA 19344

Address of Defendant: 9th Avenue, Suite 312, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: See Plaintiff address

(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?

(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))

Yes ☐No ☒

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?

Yes ☐No ☒

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: Judge Date Terminated:

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
Yes ☐ No ☒
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
Yes ☐ No ☒
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?
Yes ☐ No ☒

CIVIL: (Place ☒ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
2. ☐ FELA
3. ☐ Jones Act-Personal Injury
4. ☐ Antitrust
5. ☐ Patent
6. ☐ Labor-Management Relations
7. ☐ Civil Rights
8. ☐ Habeas Corpus
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases
10. ☐ Social Security Review Cases
11. ☒ All other Federal Question Cases
(Please specify) Fair Debt Collection Practices

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury
3. ☐ Assault, Defamation
4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury
5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. ☐ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. ☐ Products Liability
8. ☐ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. ☐ All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify)

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check Appropriate Category)

I, _____, counsel of record do hereby certify:

- ☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;
- ☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: _____

Attorney-at-Law

Attorney I.D.#

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 6-27-17

Anty Glic

Attorney-at-Law

94538

Attorney I.D.#

JUL 03 2017

MAK**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA****CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

Michelle Sheplock

CIVIL ACTION

v.

Medical Data Systems, Inc.

17 **2988**
NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ()
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

6-27-17
DateAnty M. Sh.
Attorney-at-lawMichelle Sheplock
Attorney for215-326-9179267-238-3707ag@garibianlaw.com

Telephone

FAX Number

E-Mail Address

JUL 03 2017